Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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FOR TODMAN FROM STEDMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJECT: DAILY ARA SUMMARY - AUGUST 15

1. PANAMA: THE HOUSE MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE WILL HOLD HEARINGS ON THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES WEDNESDAY. PRESENT GROUND RULES STATE THAT THE TWO NEGOTIATORS WILL MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND THEN RESPOND TO QUESTIONS IN EXECUTIVE SESSION. THERE IS HOPE THAT THE TREATY DRAFTS WILL BE FINISHED THIS WEEK. THE PRESIDENT HAD LUNCH TODAY WITH FORMER SECRETARY KISSINGER TO DISCUSS THE TREATY. ADMINISTRATION EFFORTS ON THE HILL AND WITH
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MEDIA ARE INTENSE. AMBASSADOR BUNKER HAS AGREED TO BRIEF LATIN AMERICAN AMBASSADORS HERE, PERHAPS EARLY NEXT WEEK.

2. WASHINGTON POST EDITORIAL ON CHILE: IN AUGUST 15 EDITORIAL, WASHINGTON POST COMMENTS ON DISSOLUTION OF DINA WITH SUCH STATEMENTS AS "ONE COULD CONCLUDE MERELY THAT GENERAL PINOCHET RAN OUT OF VICTIMS"; " A REGIME AS BLOODY

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AS GENERAL PINOCHET'S CAN NEVER BE FORGIVEN"; AND "IT IS CERTAINLY NOT UNREALISTIC TO DEMAND THE START OF AN ACCOUNTING FOR THE VICTIM." BUT INTERESTINGLY EDITORIAL GOES ON TO SAY: "IT IS FAIR TO ATTRIBUTE SOME PART OF THE CHILEAN MOVE TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS DRIVE. THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE WAS IN SANTIAGO WHEN THE DINA ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE UNDERLINES THE POINT. THE U.S. HAS

BEEN CONDUCTING A CARROT-AND-STICK POLICY TOWARD CHILE, ALTERNATELY HOLDING UP AID AND CRITICIZING RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, AND OFFERING ENCOURAGEMENT WHEN SMALL FORWARD STEPS WERE TAKEN. IN ANY SUCH POLICY, THE COMBINATION OF THREATS AND ENTICEMENTS IS ALWAYS SOMEWHAT ARBITRARY, BUT WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAS IT RIGHT HERE. GIVEN THE U.S. PART IN CONTRIBUTING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PINOCHET REGIME, THE AMERICAN RESPONSIBILITY FOR HELPING TO UNDO THE DAMAGE REMAINS LARGE. CHILE IS STILL IN A STATE OF SIEGE."

3. ANTI-CASTRO TERRORIST PLOT: ON AUGUST 14, SEVERAL LOCAL FLORIDA AND FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES INTERDICTED BRIGADE 2506'S PLANS TO RAID THE CUBAN COAST. SO FAR, OFFICIALS HAVE SEIZED 3 BOATS, WEAPONS, AND ONE OF THE PLOTTERS. WE ARE INFORMING CUBAN GOVERNMENT THROUGH USUAL CHANNEL SO THEY CAN CALL OFF ALERT ON THEIR NORTHERN COAST. (CASTRO TOLD SENATOR CHURCH THAT ALERT WAS PUT CONFIDENTIAL

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INTO EFFECT AS A RESULT OF INFORMATION SUPPLIED CUBA BY U.S.)

4. CUBAN EXILES: BOMB TOSSED AT VENEZUELAN AIR FORCE DC-9 IN MIAMI ON AUGUST 14 TO BACK ANTI-CASTROITES' DEMAND FOR THE RELEASE OF ORLANDO BOSCH. THE BOMB MISSED THE PLANE AND NO INJURIES RESULTED. THE LUIS BOITEL COMMANDOS TOOK RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE BOMB AND THREATENED TO ATTACK A COMMERCIAL PLANE NEXT UNLESS BOSCH IS RELEASED.

5. LOANS TO PARAGUAY AND URUGUAY: IN THE MEETING ON AUGUST 11, THE CHRISTOPHER COMMITTEE DECIDED TO POSTPONE THE PENDING AID LOANS FOR PARAGUAY, AND TO TRY AND HOLD THE IDB LOANS IN ABEYANCE PENDING DECISION ON AN IAHRC VISIT. CHRISTOPHER STATED THAT HE WAS UNHAPPY WITH PARAGUAY'S PERFORMANCE WITH REGARD TO THE VISIT. IF PARAGUAY ADMITS THE IAHRC, WE WILL LET THE IDB LOANS COME FORWARD AND VOTE YES; OTHERWISE, WE PLAN TO VOTE AGAINST THEM.

ON URUGUAY, IF THE PASO SEVERINO WATER SUPPLY PROJECT COMES FORWARD, WE WILL VOTE NO AND TRY TO POSTPONE THE

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LOAN.
OUR POSITION IS THE SAME ON THE OTHER IDB LOANS. OPIC
ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD RECOMMEND THAT OPIC NEGOTIATIONS
WITH URUGUAY BE HELD UP.

6. UP-DATE ON EL SALVADOR: HUMAN RIGHTS: THE CHRISTOPHER
GROUP APPROVED A DOLLARS 3 MILLION AID LOAN FOR EL
SALVADOR ON AUGUST 11, 1977. IN INFORMING THE GOES OF
THIS DECISION, THE DEPARTMENT WILL MAKE ANOTHER DEMARCHE

ON AREAS IN WHICH THE USG WOULD HOPE TO SEE FURTHER
IMPROVEMENT IN HUMAN RIGHTS. THE EMBASSY'S LATEST ASSESS-
MENT OF CONDITIONS IN EL SALVADOR ESSENTIALLY STATES: (1)
THERE HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTIVE MEASURES AND STATEMENTS BY
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THE GOES; (2) IT IS PREMATURE TO JUDGE THE EXTENT OF REAL
CHANGE IN ATTITUDES; AND (3) PRESIDENT ROMERO APPEARS
GENUINELY CONCERNED WITH AMELIORATING RELATIONS WITH USG,
AT LEAST TO STATUS QUO ANTE. IT IS GENERALLY RECOGNIZED
THAT SOME IMPROVEMENT HAS TAKEN PLACE DURING PAST SEVERAL
WEEKS. ITS DEPTH AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT REMAIN TO BE
GAUGED. WE WILL EXAMINE THIS SITUATION WITHIN THE NEXT
FEW WEEKS IN DETERMINING WHETHER TO RECOMMEND WITHDRAWING
OUR OBJECTION TO THE DOLLARS 90 MILLION IDB LOAN FOR THE
SAN LORENZO DAM PROJECT.

7. BRAZIL: CHURCH TAKES ISSUE WITH OFFICIAL REPORT ON
U.S. MISSIONARIES' ARREST: THE DIOCESE OF OLINDA AND
RECIFE HAS PUBLISHED A REFUTATION AND CONDEMNATION OF THE
REPORT OF THE OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED INTO THE
MAY ARREST OF U.S. MISSIONARIES CAPUANO AND ROSEBAUGH. THE
REPORT WAS RELEASED LAST WEEK BY PERNAMBUCO STATE AUTHORI-
TIES. THE CHURCH DOCUMENT SCORES THE OFFICIAL REPORT FOR
DENYING THAT THE MISSIONARIES REPEATEDLY SOUGHT AND WERE
REFUSED THEIR RIGHT TO CONTACT THE U.S. CONSUL AND FOR
IMPLYING THAT THE MISTREATMENT AND SUBHUMAN CONDITIONS
TO WHICH THEY WERE SUBJECTED WERE "ROUTINE" AND "TO BE
EXPECTED." WE ARE CONSIDERING HOW TO RESPOND TO THE GOB
OVER THE HIGHLY UNSATISFACTORY RESULTS OF THE INVESTI-
GATION. BRASILIA IS PREPARING COMMENTS.

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